

AFRL's Shea receives W. E. Smith medal

by *Beth Fullerton, Space Vehicles directorate*

HANSCOM, AFB, MASS. - The American Geophysical Union recently awarded Margaret "Peggy" Ann Shea, a scientist emeritus at the Air Force Research Laboratory Space Vehicles directorate at Hanscom Air Force Base, Mass., the prestigious Waldo E. Smith Medal for her extraordinary service to geophysics. AGU awards this senior medal only every other year. In addition, Shea was accorded AGU fellowship.

Shea was honored with an award ceremony and banquet at the AGU conference held in San Francisco. She is the second woman in AGU history to be awarded a senior medal, and the first woman to receive the Smith award.

Shea has spent most of her career doing research for the U.S. Air Force in the Geophysics Laboratory at Hanscom AFB, concentrating on cosmic radiation and solar terrestrial phenomena. Also, she is recognized as an expert in geomagnetic cutoff rigidities for cosmic radiation. She has received several Air Force honors including an Air Force Association Citation of Honor and the Guenter Loeser Memorial Award.

Throughout the years Shea has served on many AGU committees and was a past editor-in-chief of the U.S. National Report to the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics. She is the author or co-author of more than 300 scientific papers, editor for 18 scientific reports, and organizer of 25 international meetings or symposia.

Working to facilitate the research of others, especially in the international community of science, Shea has worked extensively with scientists from eastern European countries. In 1985, she was awarded the USSR Academy of Sciences' Soviet Geophysical Committee's Commemorative medal honoring 100 Years of International Geophysics. In 1991, she received the designation of foreign associate of the British Royal Astronomical Society, which is an honor higher than fellow, and more recently, was elected to the International Academy of Astronautics.

Christopher Russell, professor of physics from the University of California, Los Angeles, nominated Shea for the award.

Russell said, "Peggy Shea embodies the motto of AGU, 'Unselfish Cooperation in Research.'"

Presently, Shea is editor-in-chief of *Advances in Space Research*, and although retired from AFRL, she continues to work for the laboratory in an emeritus position; she is also an adjunct professor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Waldo E. Smith, for whom the medal is named, was the AGU's first executive director, an engineer by training managed the administrative affairs of AGU from 1944 to 1970. The medal, established in 1982, recognizes extraordinary service to geophysics. @



Margaret "Peggy" Ann Shea



Waldo E. Smith Medal